

ABSTRACT

1 A rail switch is provided having an improved throw rod to enable testing with
2 damaging the switch. The throw rod includes a housing on its length, with a piston
3 and spring located within the housing. A locking pin locks movement of the piston
4 during normal operation, causing the throw rod to act as a solid rod as previously
5 used in the art. The locking pin can be removed during gap testing, to enable a
6 small amount of play in the length of the rod. This eliminates the stress caused on
7 the switch by testing.